
Quarterly Benefit Statistics

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
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Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs

Selected Current Statistics for **October - December 1997**

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Monthly Unemployment Benefit Claimants December 1987 through December 1997

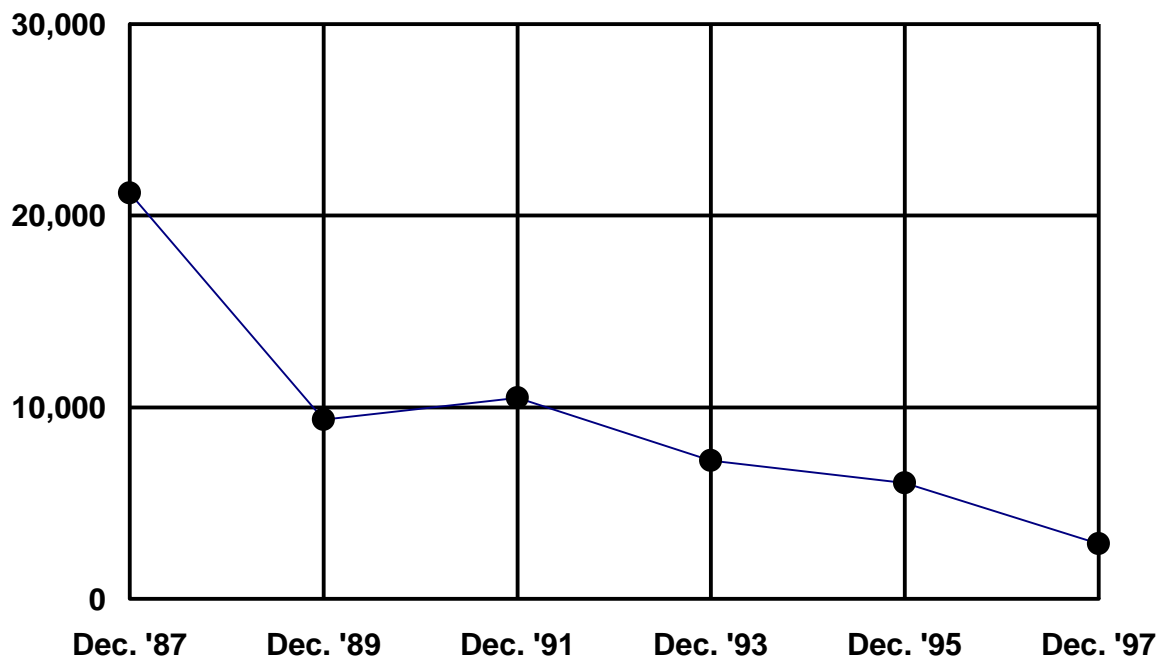


Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics
October - December 1997

Period	Total ¹		Employee annuities				Spouse annuities	Divorced spouse annuities
			Age	Disability		Supplemental		
	Monthly benefits	Monthly beneficiaries		Age under 65	Age 65 and over			
Number in current-payment status at end of period								
December 1997	900,024	736,656	253,454	37,537	41,500	154,320	176,174	3,679
November 1997	901,729	737,991	253,998	37,564	41,520	154,675	176,481	3,681
October 1997	903,546	739,389	254,619	37,481	41,580	155,085	176,896	3,659
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
December 1997	.....	.....	\$1,246.53	\$1,549.59	\$1,115.00	\$43.04	\$500.25	\$309.26
November 1997	.....	.....	1,225.83	1,520.90	1,094.35	43.05	492.21	303.18
October 1997	.....	.....	1,224.38	1,519.26	1,091.94	43.08	491.73	303.16
Number awarded during period								
December 1997	2,287	1,971	480	240	.....	316	605	17
November 1997	3,150	2,762	578	370	.....	388	740	49
October 1997	3,359	2,914	607	441	.....	445	780	36
10/97 - 12/97	8,796	7,647	1,665	1,051	.....	1,149	2,125	102
10/96 - 12/96	8,872	7,723	1,795	1,035	.....	1,149	2,129	99
Average amount awarded during period ²								
December 1997	.....	.....	\$1,665.99	\$1,691.70	.....	\$40.74	\$586.08	\$338.39
November 1997	.....	.....	1,504.96	1,624.46	.....	40.23	517.66	290.25
October 1997	.....	.....	1,568.06	1,601.39	.....	41.13	571.44	286.67
Benefit payments during period (thousands)								
December 1997	\$679,034	.....	\$311,067	\$59,171	\$45,304	\$6,653	\$87,133	\$1,133
November 1997	678,932	.....	308,823	62,183	44,789	6,720	87,375	1,210
October 1997	684,946	.....	312,102	61,117	45,241	6,756	87,790	1,159
10/97 - 12/97	2,042,912	.....	931,992	182,471	135,334	20,129	262,298	3,502
10/96 - 12/96	2,024,515	.....	930,185	171,537	131,757	20,980	263,132	3,418

¹Includes dependent parents' and survivor (option) annuities. Except for benefit payment data, excludes insurance lump-sum and residual payment figures. Benefit payments also include hospital insurance benefits for services in Canada. ²Regular employee and spouse annuity averages are preliminary estimates.

NOTE --MONTHLY BENEFITS in CURRENT-PAYMENT STATUS at the end of month include all benefits awarded to date and payable for the month.

BENEFITS AWARDED consist of those certified for the first time on either a partial or final basis.

BENEFIT PAYMENTS for a month, shown in both the benefit and financial statistics, consist of recurrent monthly checks dated the first of the month, plus retroactive and lump-sum payments made during the month, less returned checks (excluding those not yet distributed by Account), refunds of benefits paid previously, etc. Data are on a cash basis (unaudited) and are partly estimated.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics -
October - December 1997 -- Continued**

Survivor benefits								
Period	Annuities					Children	Insurance lump sums	Residual payments
	Aged widows and widowers	Disabled widows and widowers	Widowed mothers and fathers	Remarried widows and widowers	Divorced widows and widowers			
Number in current-payment status at end of period								
December 1997	195,923	6,202	1,473	6,063	8,983	14,633	.....	.....
November 1997	196,337	6,215	1,479	6,066	8,979	14,650	.....	.....
October 1997	196,758	6,208	1,472	6,052	8,989	14,662	.....	.....
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
December 1997	\$756.79	\$666.67	\$938.47	\$520.13	\$538.37	\$640.57	.....	.....
November 1997	742.29	654.45	922.66	509.11	527.71	629.70	.....	.....
October 1997	741.14	652.67	920.65	508.13	527.27	628.34	.....	.....
Number awarded during period								
December 1997	505	15	14	14	40	41	194	1
November 1997	845	29	14	40	45	51	405	8
October 1997	829	38	25	28	58	72	493	14
10/97 - 12/97	2,179	82	53	82	143	164	1,092	23
10/96 - 12/96	2,107	56	52	98	167	184	1,072	35
Average amount awarded during period ²								
December 1997	\$1,022.58	\$879.00	\$833.16	\$788.86	\$618.58	\$720.21	\$860	\$2,034
November 1997	862.73	880.34	907.48	591.46	581.03	866.93	879	3,756
October 1997	898.63	731.61	759.62	533.36	476.25	742.55	884	2,202
Benefit payments during period (thousands)								
December 1997	\$145,576	\$4,103	\$1,409	\$3,114	\$4,762	\$9,399	\$168	\$2
November 1997	144,195	4,225	1,419	3,220	4,755	9,568	366	30
October 1997	146,789	4,300	1,450	3,195	4,825	9,701	445	31
10/97 - 12/97	436,560	12,628	4,278	9,529	14,342	28,668	979	63
10/96 - 12/96	434,379	12,399	4,372	9,257	13,604	28,281	940	126

NOTE .--(Continued from previous page.)

FOR WIDOWS and WIDOWERS aged 60 and over and WIDOWED MOTHERS and FATHERS, the number of benefits being paid and benefit payments include benefits temporarily being continued at spouse annuity rates, pending award of survivor annuities.

INSURANCE LUMP SUMS and RESIDUAL PAYMENTS are each counted only once with respect to an employee's death even though divided among 2 or more persons. Award data for insurance lump sums exclude deferred benefits, i.e., those payable a year after the employee's death.

Data on benefit payments are for CALENDAR MONTHS; all other data are for ACCOUNTING MONTHS ending on approximately the 20th of each month.

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics-
October - December 1997 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	December 1997	November 1997	October 1997	October 1997 - December 1997	October 1996 - December 1996
RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period¹	\$14,106,064	\$14,082,783	\$13,972,268	\$13,972,268	\$12,352,548
Income, total	316,741	359,355	449,649	1,125,745	1,111,311
Payroll taxes ²	127,899	151,101	150,193	429,192	479,003
Income tax transfers	.....	.....	49,000	49,000	48,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	91,893	93,011	93,259	278,163	275,382
Undistributed canceled checks ³	.....	-4,545	.....	-4,545	-654
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments ³	-892	251	-2,001	-2,642	272
Uncashed check credits from U.S. Treasury ⁴	23	110	-20	112	236
Financial interchange adjustment	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Repayments from RR Supplemental Account ⁵	7,300	.....	.....	7,300	7,500
Interest on investments ⁶	90,518	119,428	159,218	369,164	301,572
Outgo, total	333,002	336,074	339,134	1,008,210	1,003,147
Benefit payments ⁷	237,115	239,754	239,575	716,444	715,387
Payments of SSA benefits	91,905	93,031	93,043	277,978	275,219
Administrative expenses ⁸	3,776	3,248	6,258	13,281	11,960
Funding for Office of Inspector General	207	41	258	506	581
Balance at end of period¹	14,089,802	14,106,064	14,082,783	14,089,802	12,460,713
RAILROAD RETIREMENT SUPPLEMENTAL ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period	\$44,435	\$38,583	\$35,349	\$35,349	\$41,230
Income, total	8,595	12,708	10,137	31,440	27,165
Taxes ²	8,425	12,520	9,966	30,910	26,562
Interest on investments ⁶	170	188	171	529	604
Outgo, total	14,089	6,856	6,903	27,847	29,134
Benefit payments	6,653	6,720	6,756	20,129	20,980
Repayments to Railroad Retirement Account ⁵	7,300	.....	.....	7,300	7,500
Administrative expenses ⁸	128	134	136	398	630
Funding for Office of Inspector General	8	2	11	21	24
Balance at end of period	38,941	44,435	38,583	38,941	39,261

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics -
October - December 1997 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued**

Item	December 1997	November 1997	October 1997	October 1997 - December 1997	October 1996 - December 1996
SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period	\$1,748,807	\$1,705,852	\$1,656,124	\$1,656,124	\$2,319,402
Income, total	474,654	459,885	474,561	1,409,100	1,317,262
Payroll taxes ²	191,725	196,466	176,978	565,168	494,585
Income tax transfers	.....	.....	16,000	16,000	15,000
Financial interchange advances ⁵	275,920	255,021	273,929	804,871	773,339
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest on investments ⁶	7,008	8,399	7,654	23,061	34,339
Outgo, total	420,263	416,931	424,832	1,262,026	1,239,221
Benefit payments ⁷	418,143	415,184	421,211	1,254,538	1,232,334
Repayment of financial interchange advances ⁵	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RRB-HCFA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Financial interchange adjustment	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Administrative expenses ⁸	2,023	1,728	3,500	7,251	6,615
Funding for Office of Inspector General	97	19	121	237	272
Balance at end of period	1,803,198	1,748,807	1,705,852	1,803,198	2,397,443
DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT⁹					
Balance at beginning of period	\$1,810	-\$17,403	.....	.....	.....
Congressional apportionments ¹⁰	17,379	36,487	-\$3,000	\$50,866	\$52,593
Income tax transfers	.....	.....	3,000	3,000	4,000
Vested dual benefit payments	17,123	17,274	17,403	51,800	55,814
Balance at end of period	2,066	1,810	-17,403	2,066	779

¹Balances include liabilities for uncashed checks. As of the end of December 1997, liabilities were as follows: RR Account \$5,496,000. ²Net of U.S. Treasury adjustments for payroll tax refunds to certain carriers and their employees for prior periods. Also reflects adjustments for misclassified supplemental taxes. ³Net of amounts distributed by account. ⁴Net of returns of uncashed check credits. Includes undistributed canceled checks under 1-year limited payability. ⁵Includes interest ⁶Net of adjustments for payroll tax refunds (see note 2). RR Account: Amounts reflect changes in market value of zero coupon bonds. ⁷Net of adjustments for canceled checks for prior periods. ⁸Reflects adjustments for prior periods. ⁹Total vested dual benefits paid during a fiscal year are limited to the amount appropriated to the Dual Benefits Payments Account for that year. Any amounts not spent are returned to the U.S. Treasury. The benefit appropriation for fiscal year 1998 was \$205.5 million, including income tax transfers. The appropriation for fiscal year 1997 was \$223 million. ¹⁰Includes a small amount of interest on uncashed checks. Funds for October 1997 were provided under a continuing resolution.

NOTE.--Data relate to CALENDAR month. RRS loan balance at the end of December 1997, including interest, was \$25,987,000.

Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

Table 3: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Benefit Statistics
October - December 1997

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
Unemployment						
December 1997	1,880	816	67	2,888	2,842	72
November 1997	737	504	49	2,433	2,403	57
October 1997	772	618	33	2,487	2,404	109
7/97 - 12/97	7,435	5,026	347	15,011	13,868	1,376
7/96 - 12/96	10,925	6,485	402	8,000	7,364	1,344
Sickness						
December 1997	1,602	1,303	89	6,258	6,205	99
November 1997	1,457	1,273	63	6,035	6,001	77
October 1997	1,973	1,740	35	6,288	6,160	184
7/97 - 12/97	16,786	12,660	496	35,989	34,038	2,375
7/96 - 12/96	16,964	9,622	475	13,095	12,271	1,807
	Number of payments			Averages ¹		
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week	Benefit payments (thousands)
Unemployment						
December 1997	5,751	5,609	142	8.8	\$213.60	\$2,275
November 1997	4,421	4,317	104	9.0	213.75	1,689
October 1997	5,046	4,820	226	8.9	214.45	1,941
7/97 - 12/97	30,077	27,167	2,910	8.9	213.65	11,291
7/96 - 12/96	42,747	35,210	7,537	8.9	192.42	13,915
Sickness						
December 1997	13,436	13,194	242	9.2	\$214.80	\$3,810
November 1997	11,616	11,453	163	9.3	214.70	2,602
October 1997	13,914	13,553	361	9.2	214.80	3,744
7/97 - 12/97	75,372	70,383	4,989	9.1	214.20	18,377
7/96 - 12/96	76,703	66,806	9,897	9.5	191.97	14,055

¹Benefit days--average benefit days per registration period. Benefit per week--equal to 5 times average daily benefit.

NOTE--An unemployment claimant files only one APPLICATION for a benefit year. A sickness claimant files an APPLICATION at the beginning of each period of continuing sickness.

NORMAL BENEFIT ACCOUNTS are opened when the first payment is made.

The number of BENEFICIARIES is the count of persons receiving unemployment or sickness benefits in the period. Those receiving both normal and extended benefits for unemployment or sickness are counted only once in the total for each type.

PAYMENTS generally cover 14-day registration periods. For registration periods beginning prior to October 9, 1996, no benefits were payable for first claims for unemployment or sickness in a benefit year, which generally resulted in a 14-day waiting period. Effective with registration periods beginning October 9, 1996, and later, benefits are payable for days over 7 during an employee's first 14-day registration period.

Sickness benefits are paid for days of sickness after the 4th consecutive day of sickness in the first claim in each period of continuing sickness; for subsequent registration periods in the same period of continuing sickness, payments are made for all days of sickness over 4 whether or not consecutive. Unemployment benefits are paid for days of unemployment over 4. However, in the case of unemployment benefits due to a legal authorized strike, unemployment benefits are not paid until after a 14-day waiting period. Non-strikers unemployed due to an illegal strike must also serve a 14-day waiting period.

(Continued on next page.)

**Table 4: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics-
October - December 1997 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	December 1997	November 1997	October 1997	October 1997 - December 1997	October 1996 - December 1996
RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period	\$62,675	\$66,711	\$69,335	\$69,335	\$124,676
Income, total	2,917	307	3,212	6,435	1,697
Contributions ¹	-430	89	3,539	3,197	1,800
Interest on investments	16	14	23	53	110
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments ²	338	204	-350	192	-213
Transfers from Administration Fund	2,993	.....	.....	2,993	.....
Outgo, total	6,083	4,342	5,836	16,261	16,833
Unemployment benefit payments	2,275	1,689	1,941	5,906	7,759
Sickness benefit payments	3,810	2,602	3,744	10,156	8,749
Funding for Office of Inspector General	-2	51	150	199	325
Balance at end of period	59,509	62,675	66,711	59,509	109,540
RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION FUND					
Balance at beginning of period	\$8,373	\$9,398	\$4,883	\$4,883	\$4,821
Income, total	440	34	4,732	5,206	4,409
Contributions	440	34	4,732	5,206	4,408
Interest on investments	3/	.....	3/	3/	1
Outgo, total	4,378	1,059	217	5,654	4,318
Administrative expenses	1,386	1,059	217	2,662	4,318
Transfers to RUI Account	2,993	.....	.....	2,993	.....
Balance at end of period	4,435	8,373	9,398	4,435	4,913

¹Negative amounts reflect adjustments or refunds of overpaid contributions. ²Net of distributed amounts. ³Less than \$500.

NOTE.--(Continued from previous page.)

BENEFIT PAYMENTS are on a cash basis (unaudited) and represent amounts paid during the period including retroactive payments, less recoveries distributed to beneficiary accounts, refunds, and cancellations of previous payments.

ADMINISTRATION FUND balances reflect current adjustments to income and disbursements for previous years.

All unemployment and sickness data relate to CALENDAR MONTHS.

LEGISLATION enacted on October 9, 1996, increased the maximum daily benefit rate, revised the formula for indexing future benefit rates, and reduced the initial benefit waiting period. The amendments also apply an earnings test to some unemployment claims and reduce the maximum number of weeks in extended benefit periods for long-service employees.

Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

Table 5: Benefits and Beneficiaries -- December 1997

RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR

Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)	\$679,034,000
Regular benefits	655,258,000
Vested dual benefits	17,123,000
Supplemental annuities	6,653,000

	Number	Average
Total benefits being paid at end of month	900,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	332,000	\$1,264
Supplemental	154,000	43
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	180,000	496
Aged widows' and widowers'	196,000	757
Other survivors'	37,000	612
Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month	737,000	.....

UNEMPLOYMENT-SICKNESS

	Unemployment	Sickness
Benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)	\$2,275,000	\$3,810,000
Beneficiaries	2,900	6,300
Average payment per week	\$214	\$215